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Progressive Maryland Education Fund Releases 2011 Legislative Scorecard, Names Best and Worst on Working-family Issues in 2011

Baltimore – The Progressive Maryland Education Fund (PMEF) released today its annual legislative scorecard rating numerically the performance of all individual General Assembly legislators on issues of importance to Maryland’s working families during the 2011 legislative session.

The scorecard tracks votes (and avoidance thereof) as well as effort on nine key bills affecting working families considered by the General Assembly. The scorecard, its [methodology](#), and an explanation of the votes it scores are available at www.PMEF.org.

“We will distribute this scorecard to thousands of Marylanders statewide in their neighborhoods and at community events, email it repeatedly to our listserv of 25,000 subscribers, and feature it prominently on our website and those of our allies,” said Elbridge James, Board President of Progressive Maryland (PM). Among those scores of grassroots allies is Maryland NOW, whose Action Vice President Sandy Bell is Vice President of PM’s Board. Bell called the scorecard “a very helpful tool for activists and everyday citizens to use when preparing to speak with their lawmakers on issues important to them.”

Labor leaders also praise it. “Progressive Maryland Education Fund’s scorecard is an invaluable tool for Maryland progressives to assess the performance of their elected representatives on bread and butter issues important to working families,” said Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director, SEIU MD/DC Council. And Tony Perez, Director of Legislative Growth Strategies for UFCW Local 400, called it “the best tool available to enable Maryland’s working families to tell which General Assembly legislators side with them and which side with special interests.”

Bearing in mind that 100 is the best possible [score](#) a legislator can earn and 0 the worst, here are some of the notable patterns that emerged from this year’s scorecard:

Overall average score: 62
Senate average score: 63
House of Delegates average score: 62

All Democratic average score: 83
All Republican average score: 12

Senate Democratic average: 80
House Democratic average: 84

Senate Republican average: 13
House Republican average: 12

PMEF designated as “**2011 Heroes of Working Families**” the lawmakers with a score of 95 or higher. “A score of 90 or higher means you are a true friend of working families,” explained James. “But if you score 95 or higher, you are a hero -- an exceptionally effective legislator who fights hard and skillfully each day for regular voters and against the special interests.”

(more)

2011 Heroes of Working Families in the Senate

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2011 Score
Senator	Paul G. Pinsky	22	Prince George's County	D	97
Senator	Jamin B. (Jamie) Raskin	20	Montgomery County	D	97
Senator	Victor Ramirez	47	Prince George's County	D	97
Senator	Roger Manno	19	Montgomery County	D	96
Senator	Rob Garagiola	15	Montgomery County	D	96
Senator	Verna Jones-Rodwell	44	Baltimore City	D	96
Senator	Karen Montgomery	14	Montgomery County	D	95

2011 Heroes of Working Families in the House of Delegates

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2011 Score
Delegate	Ana Sol Gutierrez	18	Montgomery County	D	97
Delegate	Tom Hucker	20	Montgomery County	D	97
Delegate	Heather R. Mizeur	20	Montgomery County	D	97
Delegate	Justin D. Ross	22	Prince George's County	D	97
Delegate	Brian Feldman	15	Montgomery County	D	95
Delegate	Jolene Ivey	47	Prince George's County	D	95

Each year, PMEF also singles out lawmakers in each chamber with the lowest scores as “**The Champions of Special Interests**” – who most consistently opposed an opportunity agenda for working families. This year, eight Senators and seven Delegates earned this dubious distinction.

2011 Senate Champions of Special Interests

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2011 Score
Senator	Joseph Getty	5	Baltimore County & Carroll County	R	9
Senator	Nancy Jacobs	34	Carroll & Frederick Counties	R	9
Senator	George Edwards	1	Allegany, Garrett & Washington Cos.	R	9
Senator	E.J. Pipkin	36	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's	R	9
Senator	Edward Reilly	33	Anne Arundel County	R	9
Senator	Christopher Shank	2	Washington County	R	9
Senator	Bryan Simonaire	31	Anne Arundel County	R	9
Senator	Richard F. Colburn	37	Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico	R	9

2011 House of Delegates Champions of Special Interests

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2011 Score
Delegate	Mark Fisher	27B	Calvert & Prince George's Cos.	R	0
Delegate	Glen Glass	34A	Carroll & Frederick Counties	R	0
Delegate	Richard Impallaria	7	Baltimore County & Harford Co.	R	0
Delegate	Gail Bates	9A	Carroll & Howard Counties	R	0
Delegate	Joseph Boteler	8	Baltimore County	R	0
Delegate	Don Dwyer	31	Anne Arundel County	R	0
Delegate	Warren Miller	9A	Carroll & Howard Counties	R	0

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Scorecard Methodology

A 100 is the best possible score a lawmaker can receive; a 0 (zero) is the worst possible score. Due to its importance, SB 116 Marriage Equality is doubled-weighted (other bills are single-weighted).

A plus (+) indicates a progressive position on the bill while a negative (–) indicates a special-interest position on the bill. A plus (+) is worth full credit on that bill while a negative (–) is worth zero points on that bill. Abstentions (**A**, unexcused non-votes) that hurt PM's position are scored a negative or "0" (same as –), but those that help are scored full credit (same as a +).

Not having to vote on a bill because it did not come up for a vote in the committee or on the floor ordinarily (scored "N/A") does not factor into a lawmaker's score. Neither do Excused absences (**E**) and Recusals (**R**). If excused absences and/or recusals account for more than half of a lawmaker's votes, that lawmaker is scored N/A for the session.

Points earned on all the bills together account for 80% of a lawmaker's total score and the **Leadership Score (described below) accounts for 20%**. For more information about bills, visit the General Assembly website: <http://mlis.state.md.us>.

Leadership Score

This category scores a lawmaker on the bulk of the General Assembly's work that happens behind the scenes and is crucial to the legislative process: whether a lawmaker works with or against progressive advocates to advance working-family legislation, sponsors or cosponsors a bill, lobbies colleagues or speaks publicly for or against a bill, committee work, and so on. The Leadership Score accounts for 20% of a lawmaker's total score, with 0 (zero) the lowest possible Leadership Score and 20 the highest possible Leadership Score. ([Read the detailed description](#)).

Descriptions of Scored Legislation

The bills selected for the Progressive Maryland Education Fund (PMEF) legislative scorecard are the most important economic, political empowerment, and civil rights bills affecting working families that General Assembly lawmakers considered during the annual session. Find background and other details for any bill by entering its number at <http://mlis.state.md.us/#bill>

- **SB 116 - Civil Marriage Protection Act** (Marriage Equality) Would legalize same sex marriage in the State and give same sex couples equal protection under the law. Bill repeals any language in the law that prohibits same sex marriages and allows individual religious bodies to determine whether or not they will perform same sex marriages. <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/0213.htm>
- **HB 852/SB634** The Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Act of 2011 (Fracking) Establishes an Advisory Commission to review best practices and make recommendations on conditions that should be included in permits for hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in the Marcellus Shale, and on appropriate changes, if any, to state law and regulations governing hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale. Bill would require the Commission's report on findings, conclusions, and recommendations to be published on or before August 1, 2013; etc. HB852 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/0413.htm>
- **HB632/SB473 Earned Income Credit Information Act** (EITC) Require the Comptroller to publish the maximum income eligibility for the State earned income tax credit on or before January 1 of each

calendar year and mail to all employers in the State a notice of the new guidelines. Bill also requires an employer to notify employees who may be eligible for the State earned income tax credit.

HB632 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/1218.htm>

SB473 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/1165.htm>

- **HB470/SB167 Maryland DREAM Act** Bill allows children of undocumented immigrants, who have attended and graduated from Maryland public schools and who qualify for acceptance, to attend Maryland public colleges at in-state tuition rates upon meeting several conditions. SB167 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/1203.htm>
SB 167 House <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/1192.htm>
- **HB 712/SB104 Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program** - Annual Report Requiring the State Department of Education to issue an annual report by November 1 that includes a description of the Judith P. Hoyer Grant-funded Programs, ENROLLMENT AND PERFORMANCE, and SCHOOL READINESS DATA BY PROGRAM AND BY JURISDICTION. HB 712 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/1122.htm>
SB 104 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/0999.htm>
- **HB171/SB181 Collective Bargaining for Independent Home Care workers**
Establishing collective bargaining rights for independent home care providers and classifies workers as one bargaining unit. Also requires nonmembers to make a specified payment for representation by bargaining agent.
HB 171 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/1018.htm>
HB 171 Senate <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/0963.htm>
- **HB87/SB132 Job Applicant Fairness Act** Prohibiting employers from using an applicant's or employee's credit report or credit history in determining whether to deny employment to the applicant, discharge the employee, or determine compensation or the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.
HB87 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/0586.htm>
HB87 Senate <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/0886.htm>
- **SB994 Alcohol Tax** Increased the rate of the sales tax on alcoholic beverage to 9% and creates a lock box account for the increased revenue that must be used to reduce the waiting list for the Developmental Disabilities Administration services. SB994 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/1218.htm>
SB994 House <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/1178.htm> .
- **HB1130/SB551 Retaliation for wage complaints** Prohibiting an employer from retaliating against an employee who makes a complaint, brings an action, or testifies in an action under the Maryland Wage and Hour Law; specifying that the adverse action prohibited includes discharge, demotion, threat of discharge or demotion, and other specified retaliatory actions..
HB1130 <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/house/0915.htm>
HB1130 Senate <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/votes/senate/1246.htm>

Find background and other details for any bill by entering its number at <http://mlis.state.md.us/#bill>.

The Progressive Maryland Education Fund (PMEF; www.PMEF.org.) is a non-partisan 501(C)3 non-profit organization that, among other projects, monitors and reports on public policy issues of concern to working families and how lawmakers vote on these issues. # # #